

SNAP AND TANF PROGRAMS POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BENEFIT AMOUNTS



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

December 2011

The amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits you receive each month may change, beginning January 2012.

This change is due to the annual cost-of-living adjustment in the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks, as well as a change in the Medicare premium.

If you disagree with the new amount of SNAP or TANF you receive, you have the right to request a fair hearing. At the hearing you will have a chance to explain why you think this change is incorrect, and a hearing officer will decide if you are right.

If you disagree with the new amount of your benefits, you have the right to request a fair hearing. You may request a hearing on your SNAP case within the next 90 days (30 days for TANF) as long as the issue appealed is based on the improper computation of your benefits, or the misapplication or misinterpretation of federal law or regulations.

If your benefits decreased, you have the right to continue to receive your previous amount until the hearing officer writes a final decision; however, you may have to repay benefits you are over issued if the hearing officer agrees with the action taken. You may request a hearing by contacting your worker at your local Social Services Agency or you may call 1-800-552-3431.

2012 MATCHED SAVINGS ASSISTANCE

Saving for your first home . . . to start a business . . . to continue your education? Qualified individuals with **earned income** could earn **up to \$4,000** to match savings through the Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA) Program. To receive 2012 enrollment information, email your name, address and phone number to vida@dhcd.virginia.gov. You will be notified when enrollment is open.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Based on your earnings in 2011, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You must file your taxes to qualify. You can file your taxes for FREE at an IRS approved free tax preparation site. The EITC can provide you with a refund of up to \$5,571 based on family size and income. The EITC helps millions of families each year pay bills, lower debts, meet basic needs, and save for the future. To find a free tax prep site near you dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211virginia.org.

**FOR QUESTIONS AND TO REPORT REQUIRED CHANGES,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER**

